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Security Council

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Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004)

Note verbale dated 2 February 2006 from the Permanent Mission of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the Committee

The Permanent Mission of the State of Qatar to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) and, with reference to the latter's note dated 31 August 2005, has the honour to forward, as an annex, the additional information requested on the implementation of the aforementioned resolution (see annex).

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Annex to the note verbale dated 2 February 2006 from the Permanent Mission of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the Committee

[Original: Arabic]

Response of the competent authority in Qatar to the requests for information and clarifications contained in the note of the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004)

The Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction was ratified pursuant to Decree No. 58 of 2003, dated 25 August 2003, and acquired force of law under article 24 of the amended Provisional Constitution. The Decree orders all those concerned, each as relates to him, to implement it; provides that it shall enter into force as from its date of issue; and calls for its publication in the official gazette.

The preparation of draft law [ ] of 2005, pertaining to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction, was completed in cooperation with experts from the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons. Its article 2 sets forth the terms of reference of the National Committee for the Prohibition of Weapons, while article 3 lists everything that is prohibited, article 4 deals with permits, article 7 provides the related penalties, and so on.

The accession of the State of Qatar to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons was approved on 6 July 1989 by Decree No. 38 of that year. The treaty acquired force of law under article 24 of the amended Provisional Constitution. The Decree orders all those concerned, each as relates to him, to enforce it, provides that it shall enter into force as from its date of issue and calls for its publication in the official gazette.

The Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction was ratified on 4 July 2001, pursuant to Decree No. 32 of that year. The treaty acquired force of law under article 24 of the amended Provisional Constitution. The Decree orders all those concerned, each as relates to him, to enforce it; provides that it shall enter into force as from its date of issue; and calls for its publication in the official gazette.

On 16 February 2004, Law No. 3 of that year, on combating terrorism, was passed. The Law provides for its enforcement by all those concerned and for its publication in the official gazette.

On 29 September 2002, Law No. 31 of that year, on protection against radiation, was passed. The Law orders all those concerned, each as relates to him, to enforce it and calls for its publication in the official gazette.

On 31 December 2002, Law No. 40 of that year, on the customs code, was passed. The Law orders all those concerned, each as relates to him, to enforce it and calls for its publication in the official gazette.

Article 1 of Council of Ministers decision No. 26 of 2004 provides for the establishment, within the Ministry of Defence, of a standing committee, known as the National Committee for the Prohibition of Weapons, composed of two representatives of the Ministry of Defence, one of whom shall be the chairman of the Committee and the other, vice-chairman, and of members representing each of the following ministries: Foreign Affairs, Interior, Energy and Industry, Public Health and Municipal Affairs and Agriculture, as well as the Supreme Council for the Environment and Nature Reserves, the General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers, the Hamd al-tabi'a (Praise for Nature) Institute and the Customs and Ports General Authority. Article 3 provides that the secretariat of the Committee shall be entrusted to one or more Ministry of Defence employees. The Committee was given a mandate to achieve the objectives set out in the international conventions on the prohibition of weapons of all kinds to which Qatar has acceded or which it has ratified, with the result that the Committee works round the clock receiving and responding to requests for information coming from any organization. In accordance with article 4 of the Council of Ministers decision, the terms of reference of the National Committee for the Prohibition of Weapons are defined as follows:

- To provide advice to competent governmental authorities on all matters related to the ban on weapons of all kinds, including nuclear, biological, toxic, chemical and traditional weapons;
- To study draft international conventions on the prohibition of weapons and express opinions regarding the appropriateness of Qatar's acceding to them;
- To strive to realize the objectives set forth in international conventions on the prohibition of weapons of all kinds acceded to or ratified by Qatar;
- To propose the necessary legislation and measures for the implementation of international conventions on the prohibition of weapons;
- To review national legislation pertaining to weapons and illicit traffic in them and to propose suitable ways of developing and amending such legislation;
- To prepare reports on the weapons ban for submission by Qatar to international bodies under the relevant international conventions and resolutions;
- To prepare and carry out the necessary programmes to promote awareness of the contents of international conventions relating to the ban on weapons;
- To take part in delegations representing Qatar at conferences and on United Nations committees dealing with the ban on weapons.